



NATIONAL CHINA GARDEN FOUNDATION

# NATIONAL CHINA GARDEN

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION - CONCEPT REVIEW SUBMISSION

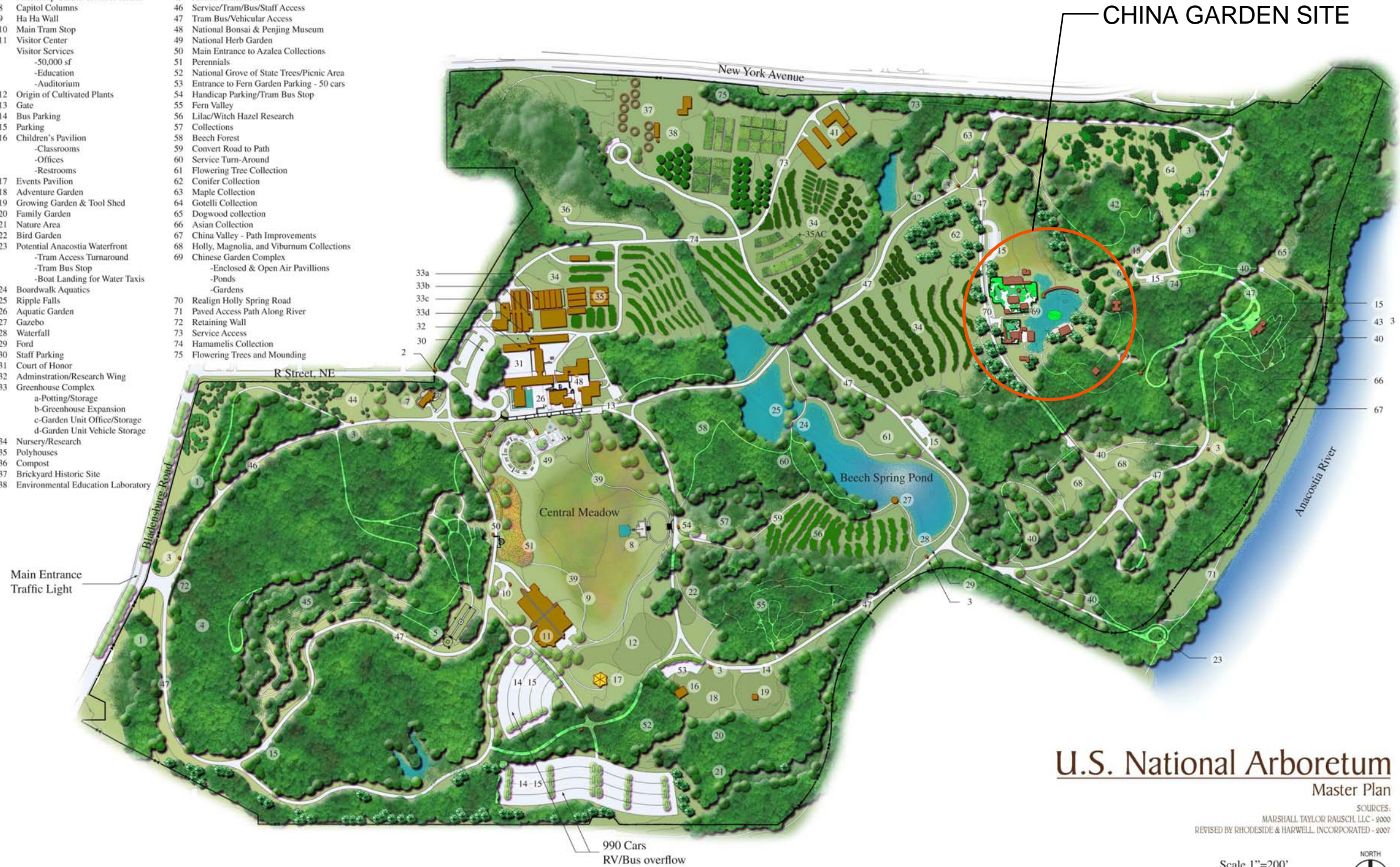
OCTOBER, 2015

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ORIGINAL MASTER PLAN UPDATE WITH PROJECT SITE 2007  
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GARDEN CONCEPT SITE PLAN 2007  
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CHINA GARDEN SITE LOOKING EAST



CHINA GARDEN SITE LOOKING SOUTHWEST



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EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS  
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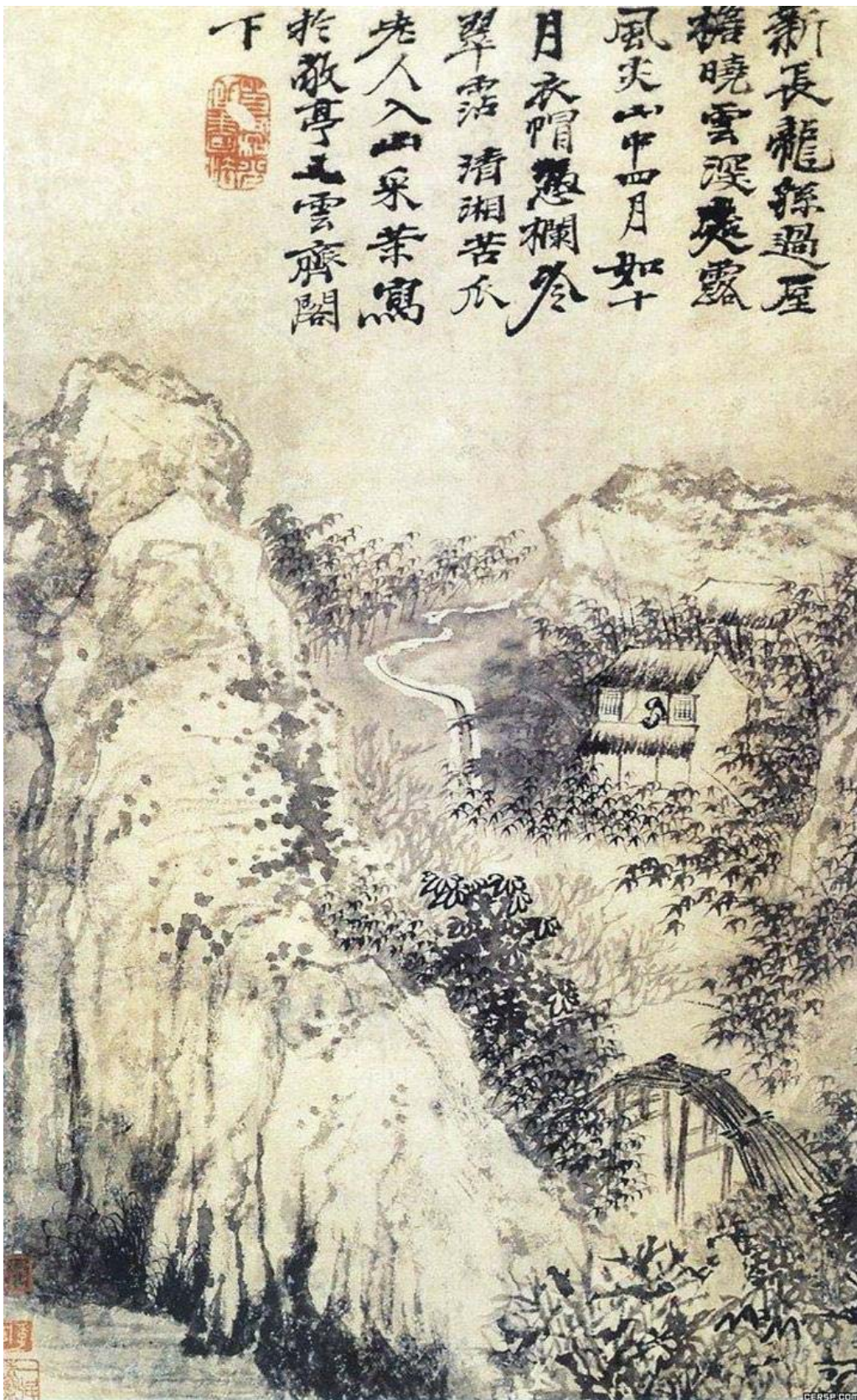


CHINA GARDEN SITE LOOKING WEST FROM HILLTOP



CHINA GARDEN SITE LOOKING SOUTHEAST





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National China Garden at the U.S. National Arboretum is expected to be the finest example of a classical Chinese garden in the United States. The China Garden is based on an original design developed by a team of designers from China and is located in an idyllic setting just two miles from the Capitol of the United States. The garden incorporates the best features of several well-known gardens in the famous Chinese garden cities Yangzhou and Suzhou. The garden will be built on a 12-acre, undeveloped parcel and will feature a harmonious balance of man-made structures, plants, water and rock formations. All the above ground structures in the National China Garden will be designed and constructed by the Chinese designers and craftsmen, using traditional Chinese architectural precepts. In addition, the U.S. team will design and construct a Support Service Building which will be staffed with administrative and maintenance personnel.

## THE GARDENS AND CHINESE PHILOSOPHIES

Confucian and Taoist philosophy both emphasize the need for human beings to live in harmony with nature. This principle, the "Unity of Heaven and Humanity," gave rise to the traditional Chinese respect for Nature and the desire to recreate Nature in art. Under the influence of this philosophy, Chinese gardens organically combine architecture, landscape and arts, using Nature to recreate Nature within a limited space. Integrating natural beauty and exquisite human craft, classical Chinese gardens are the man-made embodiment of the "Unity of Heaven and Humanity". Many of the builders and owners of those gardens were former officials who had renounced political ambitions in government for a life of art and study, or wealthy merchants fleeing the noisy and chaotic lives of the cities.

## GARDEN TYPES

The National China Garden will feature three types of prevalent classical Chinese gardens. The first type is private residential gardens. This type of garden was usually formed in the backyards of people of higher social status such as high officials, wealthy merchants or prominent scholars. These gardens are not necessarily grand in scale but the variety of ways to handle the architecture, garden spaces, paths, views, rocks, ponds and plants will make the visitors' experience extremely rich. The second type is a garden close to major water bodies. This type is originated from royal gardens as the emperors and queens could afford to build extensive terraces and corridors, besides pavilions, on the edge of the lakes. Such gardens typically feature magnificent views over the water and beyond. The third type is a garden in woods. These gardens usually feature a single structure that is partially hidden behind the trees but also partially visible from afar. This partial visibility allures visitors to explore. Structures in such gardens are typically sited on hills. They reward visitors with commanding views.

Namely, the National China Garden will have "Ge Garden" and "Mountain House of Sliced Stones" as the first type of garden, "Garden on Lake" as the second type and "Urban Forest" as the third type. These three types of gardens start from a public path in the arboretum, smoothly roll into the inner part of the site and eventually end up on the wooded hill side.



Example: a residential garden



Example: a garden on lake



Example: a garden in woods



LANDSCAPE

The vision for the National China Garden grew out of the 2004 agreement between China’s Ministry of Forestry and the US Department of Agriculture to build a classical Chinese Garden in Washington, DC. China’s rich flora and long history of garden development has had a profound influence on horticulture and garden design throughout the world. The landscape and structures of the garden are derived from classical gardens of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, and express this vision within a compact setting to allow a complete understanding of the philosophies underlying the design, and to demonstrate their history, materials, and atmosphere. The garden in China is considered to be an art form in itself, and classical Chinese gardens include five key components:

- Rocks and rockeries, used as works of art
- Water, serving as a balance for other elements in the garden
- Scenic views, in which the structures divide the garden into smaller sections with distinctive scenery, including ‘borrowed’ views
- Plantings
- Artwork and arts, such as calligraphy, painting, poetry, dance, flower arranging and viewing-stones

Location

The National China Garden is located on 12 acres of gently sloping meadow and pine forest at the United States National Arboretum (USNA). The project includes four major garden components: two walled residential style gardens, a lake garden, and a managed urban forest garden. The complex is set 100 feet from Holly Springs Road to allow the enclosing walls to be carefully blended into the existing Arboretum setting.

The Gardens

The gardens throughout the project are conceived and named by the Chinese Design team, each representing the senses and experiences of immersion into the world of this very special environment.

The sequence of entering the gardens will be from two arrival points. The main entrance begins with an elegant series of stone steps, starting the transition from the realm of the Arboretum into the world of the Classical Chinese garden. A landing at the top of the steps features a stone sculpture framed by the first opening between the walls. The second access point is to the north, where a small parking area for visitors requiring ramp access will proceed along a gently graded path, designed as a sinuous maple tree walkway also leading to the main entry point.

**The Ge Garden:** is a four-season garden including the Embracing Mountain Building which will be used as a cultural center. The landscape includes extensive rockeries, small meandering water bodies and extensive plantings typical of elegant classical Chinese residential gardens. All the pavilions will be furnished with examples of classical Chinese decorative arts and will provide an intimate glimpse into the highly cultured atmosphere of residential compounds in Ming and Qing Dynasty China.

**The Mountain House of Sliced Stones:** is a smaller, more modest garden which includes the Nanmu Hall, representing the lifestyle of a Chinese scholar and the manner in which guests might have been received in his home. The pond, rockeries, and plantings are more modest and naturalistic in feeling than those of the Ge Garden.

**The Garden on Lake:** occupies the largest area of the site. The lake, with its cascade and rocky edges, includes in its center the Tai-Chi Isle, a planting of flowering lotus and water lilies forming a ying/yang circular pattern. Located on the northern edge of the lake, the Cultural Corridor leads visitors from the Ge Garden to the Peony Garden, designed to be a signature garden devoted to the iconic Chinese peonies, including both tree peony and herbaceous peony cultivars. The outer side of the corridor is partially enclosed by stone tablets that are engraved with ancient Chinese poems written in various types of calligraphy. At the south side of the lake, the Floating Fragrance Hall provides an unobstructed view of the entire garden and surrounding area. Koi fish will inhabit the lake during all seasons, and lake edges, depths, and water quality will be designed to accommodate them.

**The Urban Forest:** is a wooded hillside garden, gently sloping up from the lake with commanding views of the entire garden complex. The Five Pavilion Terrace and the White Pagoda, both based on similar structures in China, are set among existing trees supplemented with new plantings. These two pavilions allow visitors to experience the gardens with open views down slope to the lake.

Plantings

Plant materials will be installed at sizes as mature as possible to create a full representation of the quality of the classical Chinese garden. Plantings will be obtained in part from USNA collections and pre-growing, as well as through donations from other U.S. arboreta, and commercial sources. A plant list, provided by the Chinese team, and analyzed for availability by the US design team, follows.

Parking, Service and Emergency Access, and ADA accessibility

A small parking area, servicing a modest maintenance building, are provided at the south edge of the site. Emergency access roads are provided in accordance with fire access codes at the north side of the site and at the south side of the site, constructed of supported grass in order to minimize visual intrusion into the overall design. Access in accordance with ADA requirements is provided throughout the site as shown on the drawings. Because of the steep slopes in two of the Urban Forest areas, and because of the nature of two of the rockeries within the individual walled gardens as particular examples of Chinese rockery art, access to those few areas is limited to visual access. Alternative access to all features is provided.

Implementation

Two teams of skilled practitioners have been working closely together since 2013 to bring these gardens to the National Arboretum. The teams have travelled to each country, and have worked together in work sessions on both sides of the globe.

The entire project as visible to visitors is designed by the Chinese classical garden design team, with infrastructure, site preparation and access designed in collaboration with the US design team to ensure compliance with US codes and permit requirements. Construction will be provided by a site contractor who has had experience building projects in the Washington D.C. area, using teams of artisans brought from China. Materials for visible garden elements such as stone paving, walls, and rockeries will be brought from China and installed by the master Chinese craftsmen also brought to the U.S. for this project.

FIVE KEY ELEMENTS IN A CLASSICAL CHINESE GARDEN

Rocks



Chinese scholars used rocks as art in their homes. Large and porous garden rocks are often considered to be among the most valuable in a classical Chinese garden. These ageless objects symbolize the dwellings of Taoist immortals.

Water



Water is considered to be the central component of a classical Chinese garden, serving as a balance for the other elements found in the garden. The best sites for classical Chinese gardens are on the edges of lakes with views of the mountains.

Views



The arrangement of structures divides a classical Chinese garden into smaller sections with one or more scenic views. The buildings are designed to accent the garden with windows and doorways that frame scenic views in their courtyards and beyond.

Plants



Certain plants are favored for classical Chinese gardens because of their association with overcoming the limitations of ordinary life. The pine, cypress, plum and bamboo are favorites because of their ability to grow in harsh weather conditions and rough terrain.

Artwork



Garden design is considered to be an art form in China, but one will also find other art forms like calligraphy, painting, poetry, dance, flower arranging and viewing stones in a classical Chinese garden.





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GARDEN AERIAL VIEW RENDERING  
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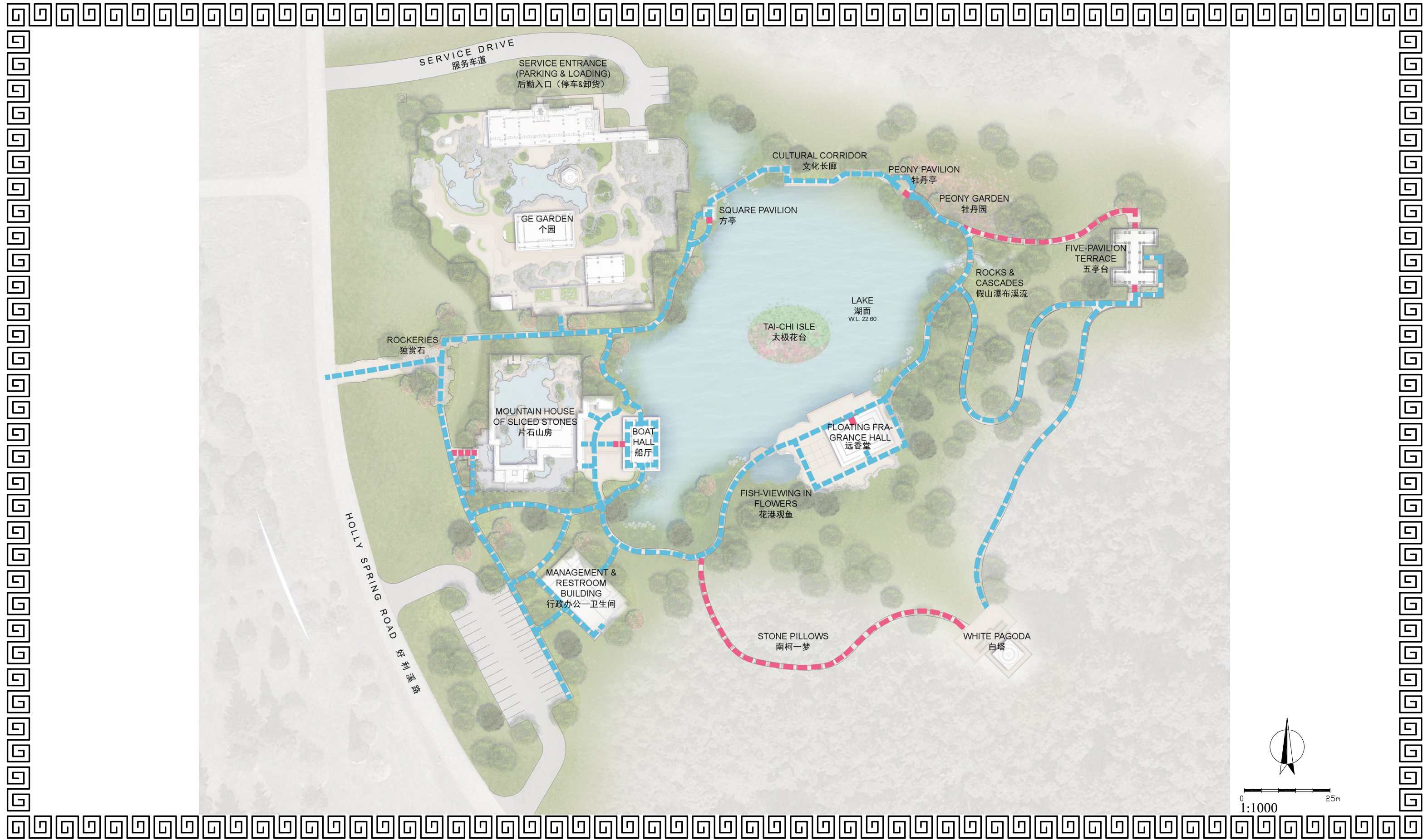
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## OVERALL SITE ACCESSIBILITY

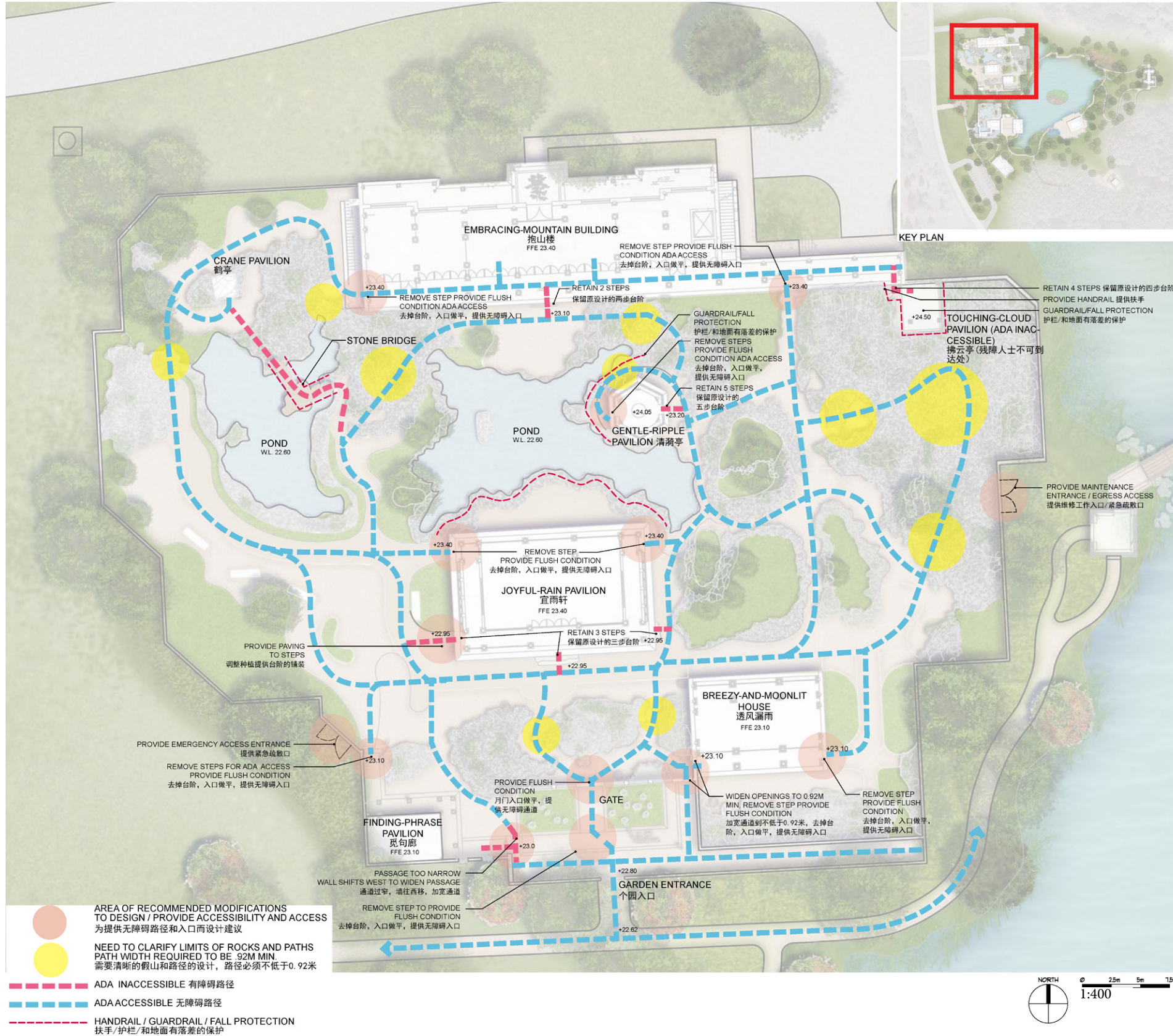
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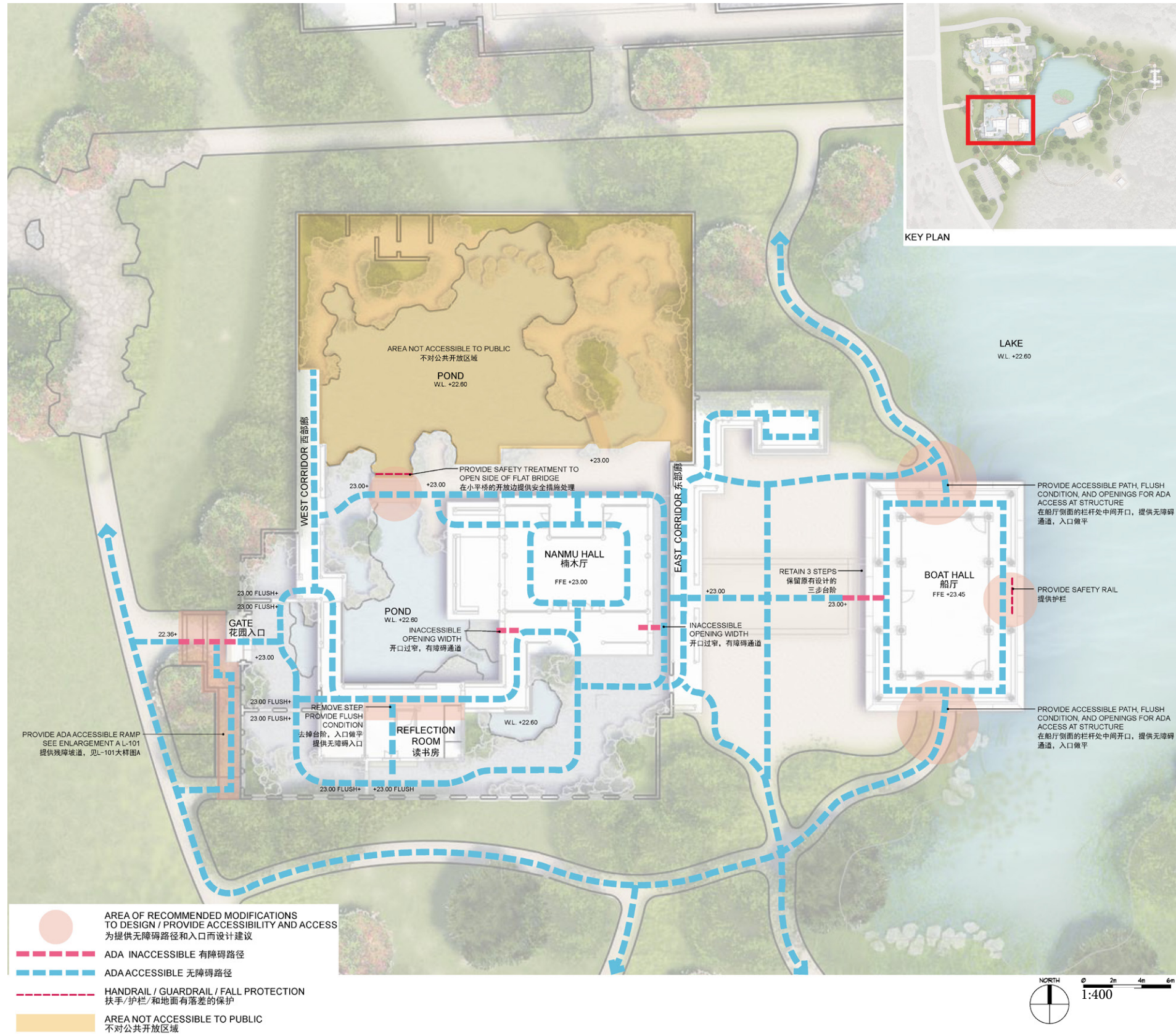
# GE GARDEN ACCESSIBILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

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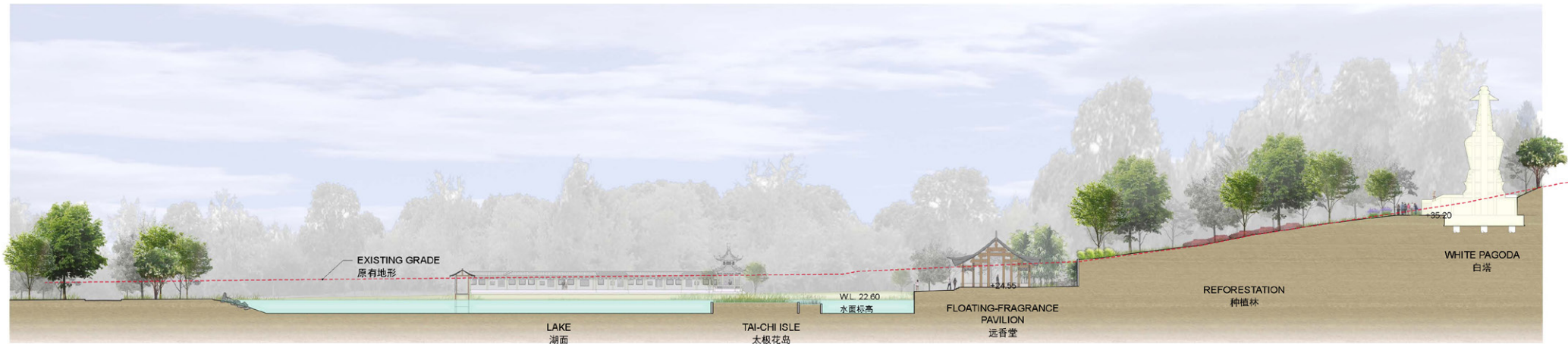
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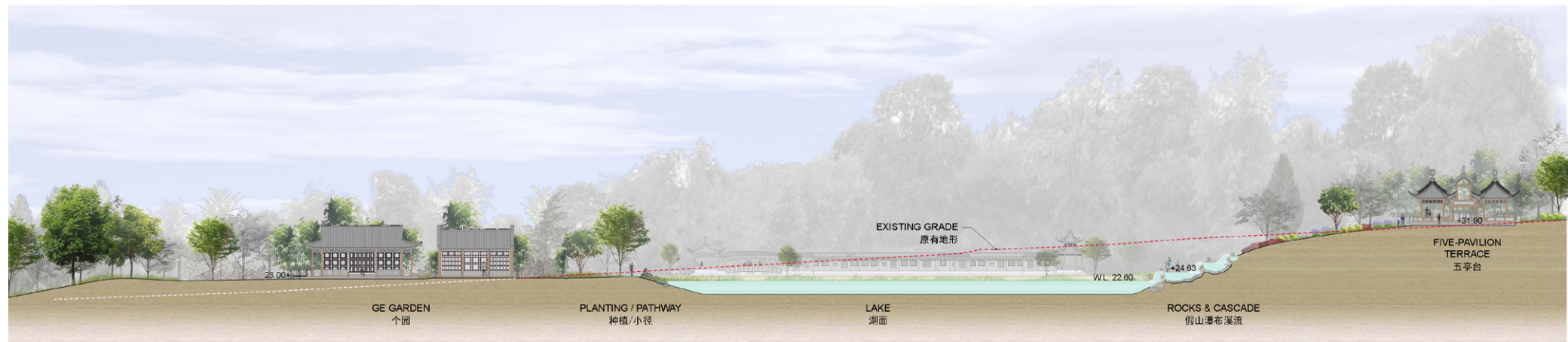




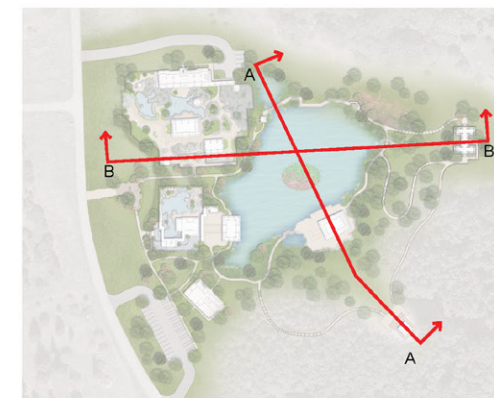




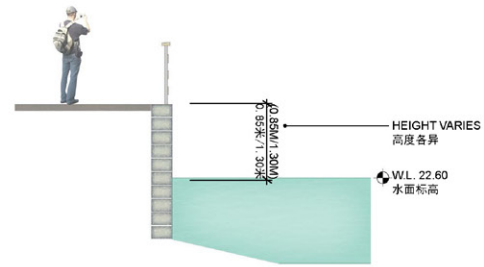
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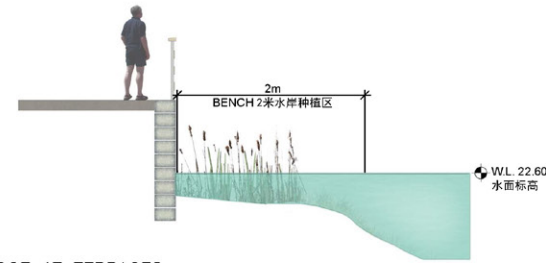
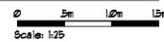
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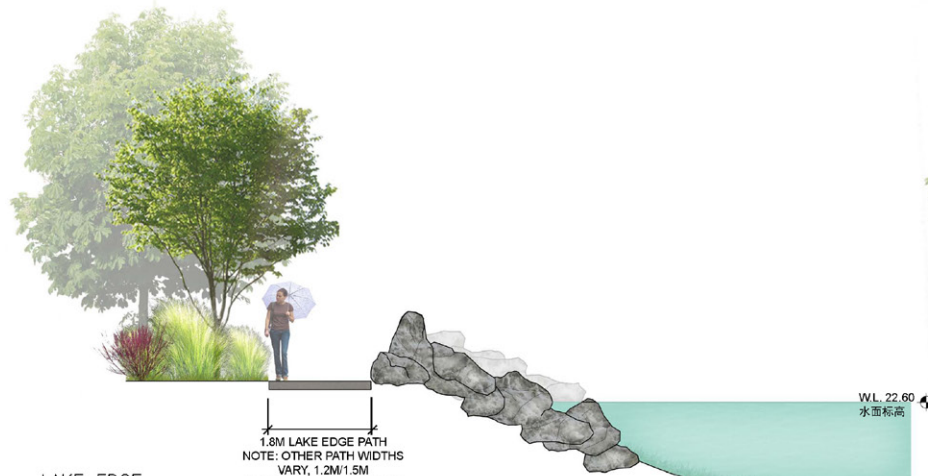
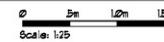




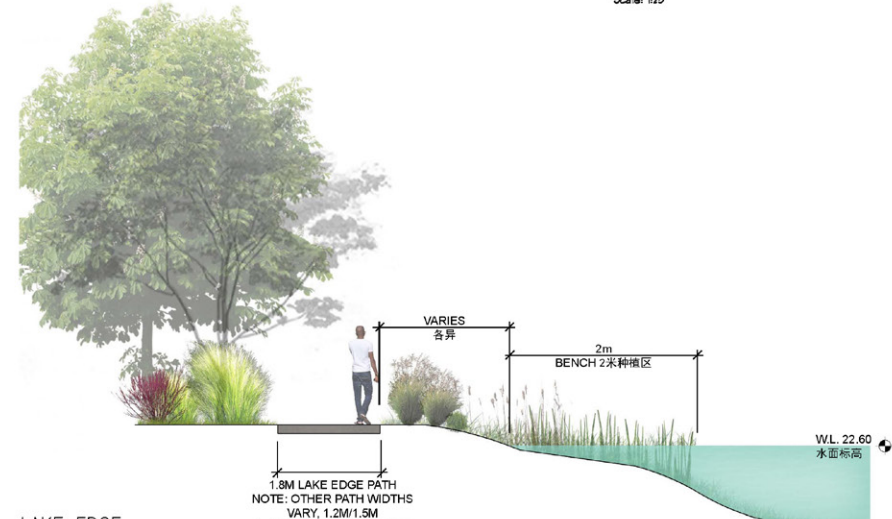
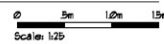
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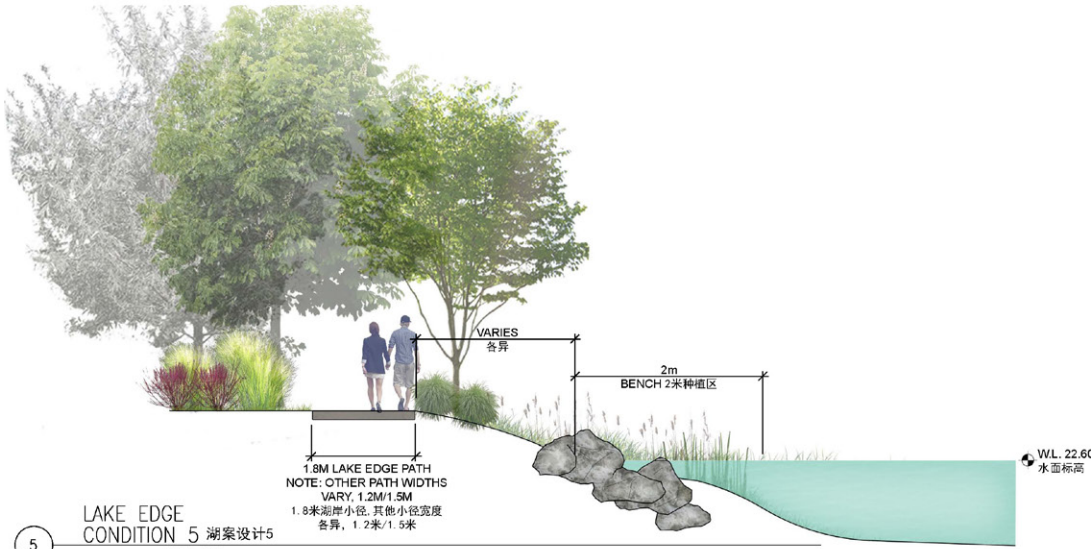
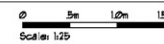
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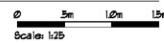
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CONDITION 3 湖岸设计3  
SCALE= 1:25



4 LAKE EDGE  
CONDITION 4 湖岸设计4  
SCALE= 1:25



5 LAKE EDGE  
CONDITION 5 湖岸设计5  
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KEY PLAN



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SITE SECTIONS

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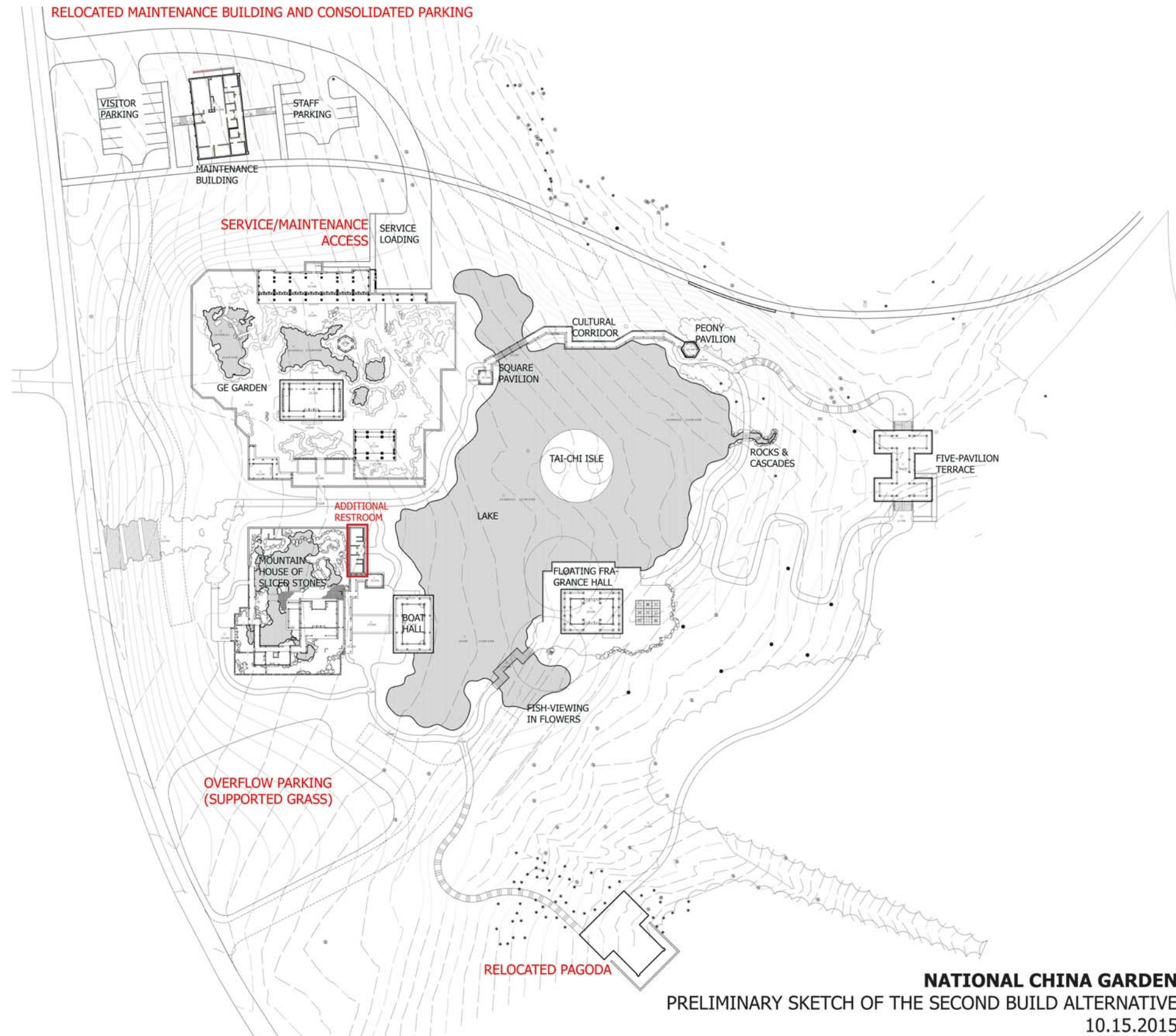


SITE PLAN UPDATE OVERLAY  
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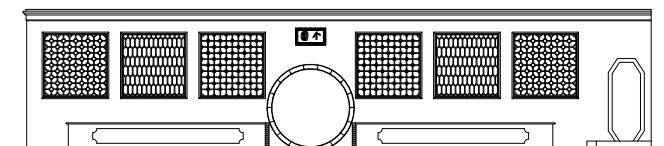
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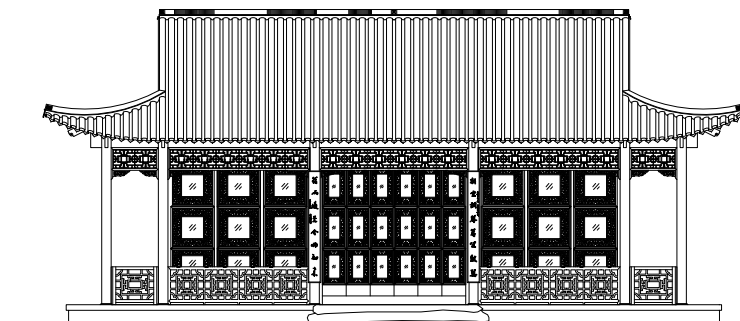
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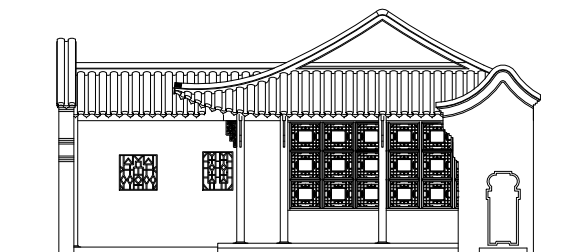




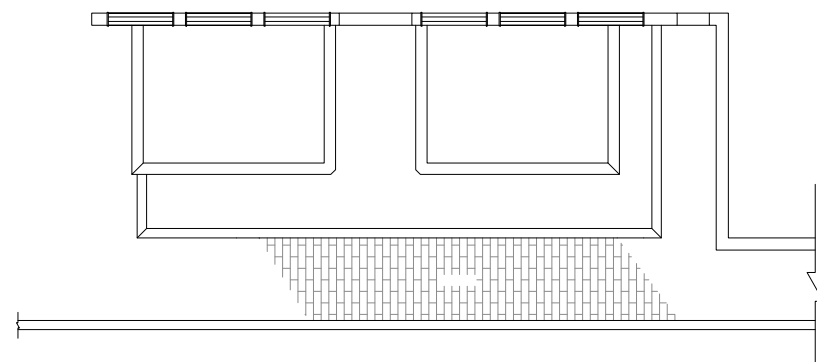
GE GARDEN GATE ELEVATION



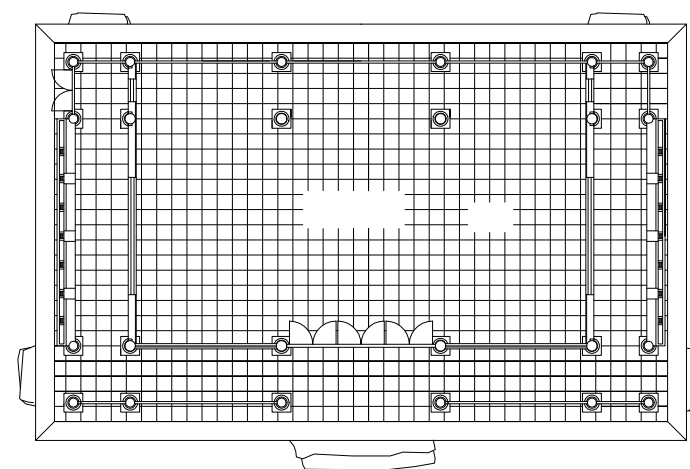
JOYFUL-RAIN PAVILION ELEVATION



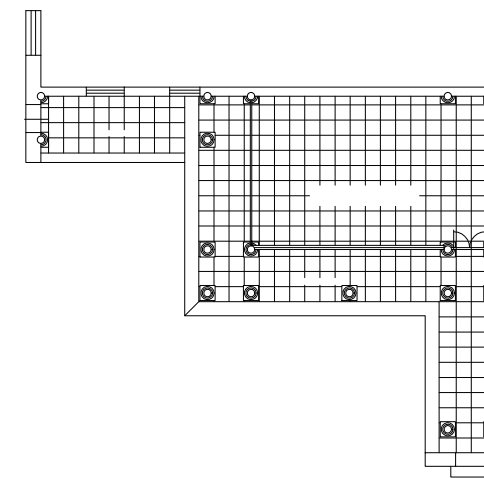
FINDING-PHRASE PAVILION ELEVATION



GE GARDEN GATE PLAN



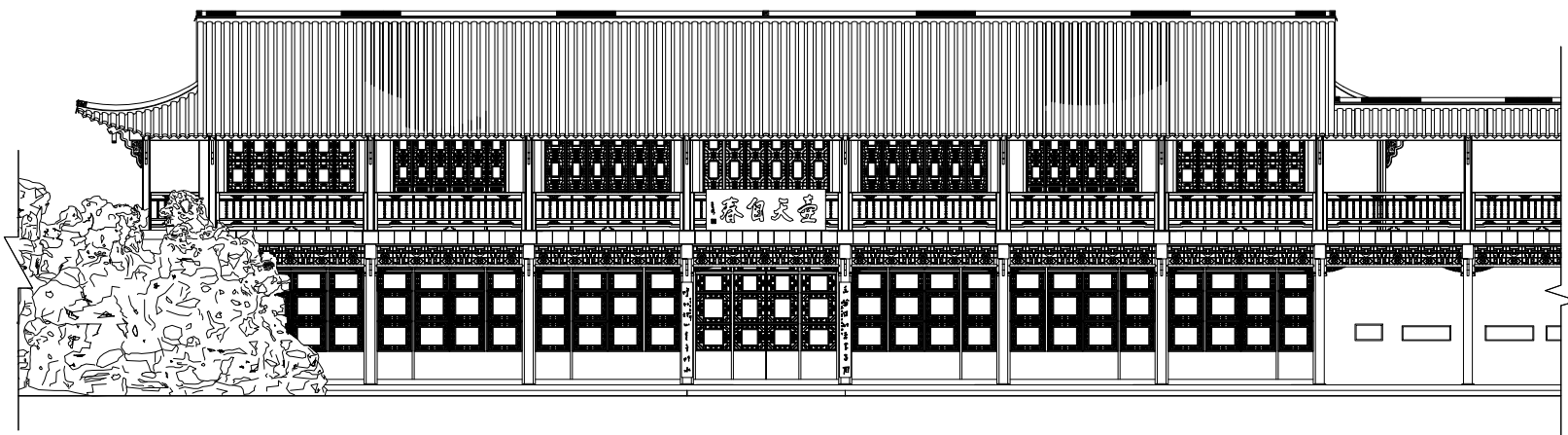
JOYFUL-RAIN PAVILION PLAN



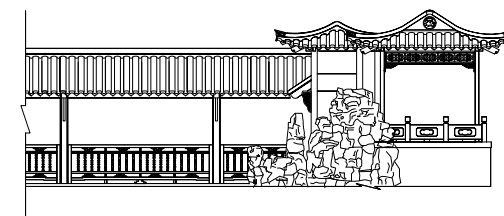
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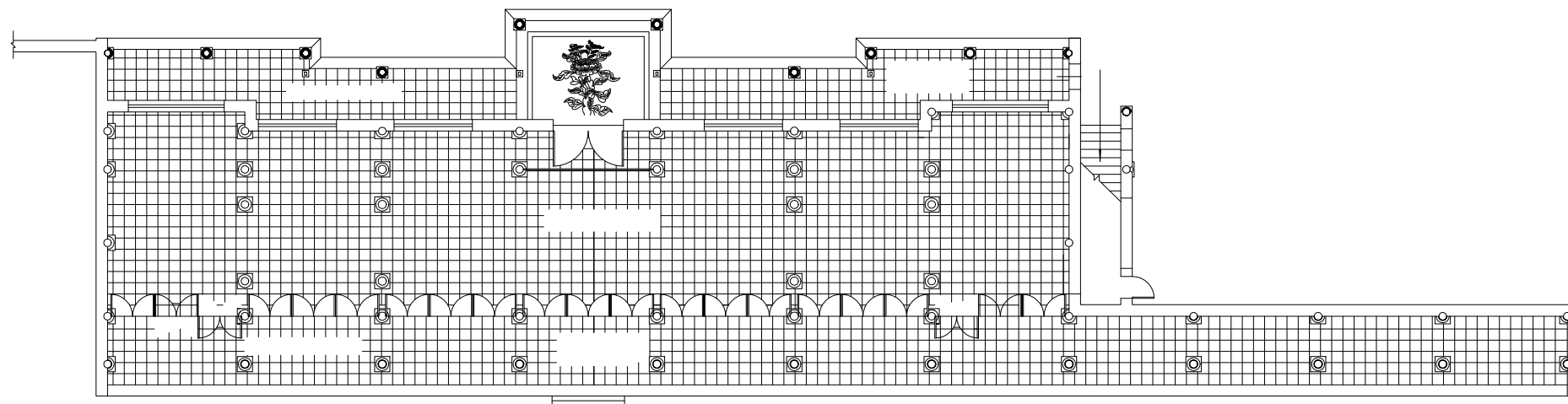




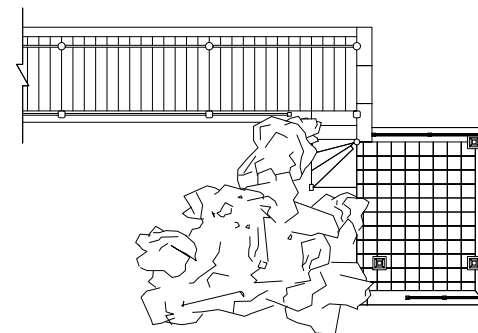
EMBRACING-MOUNTAIN BUILDING ELEVATION



TOUCHING-CLOUD PAVILION ELEVATION



EMBRACING-MOUNTAIN BUILDING PLAN



TOUCHING-CLOUD PAVILION PLAN



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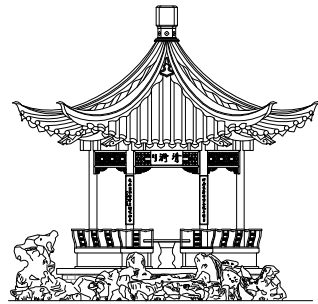
PLANS & ELEVATIONS OF BUILDINGS / STRUCTURES

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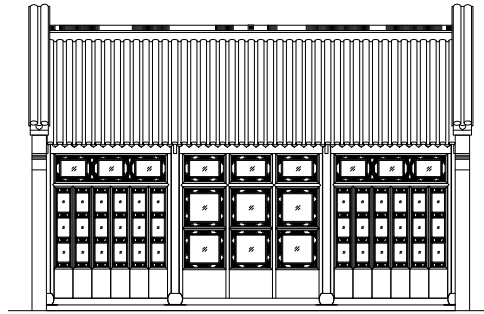
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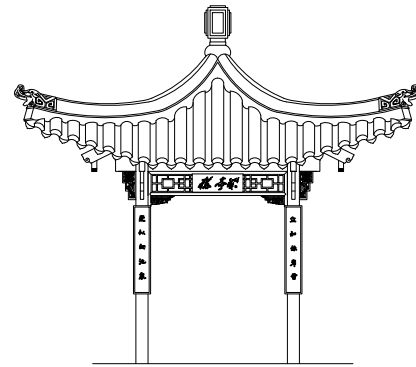




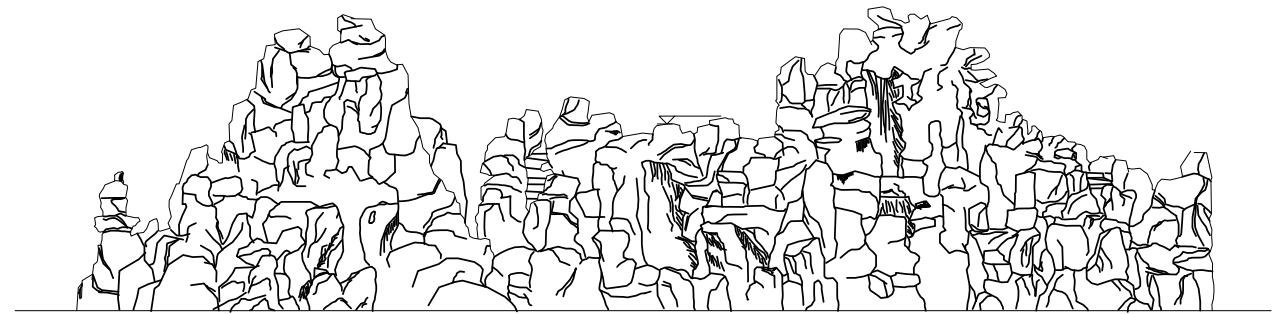
GENTLE-RIPPLE PAVILION  
ELEVATION



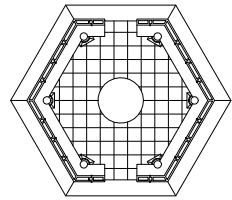
BREEZY-AND-MOONLIT  
HOUSE ELEVATION



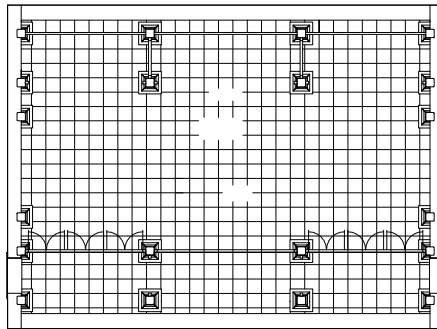
CRANE PAVILION ELEVATION



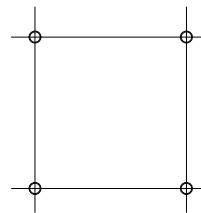
TYPICAL ROCKERIES ELEVATION



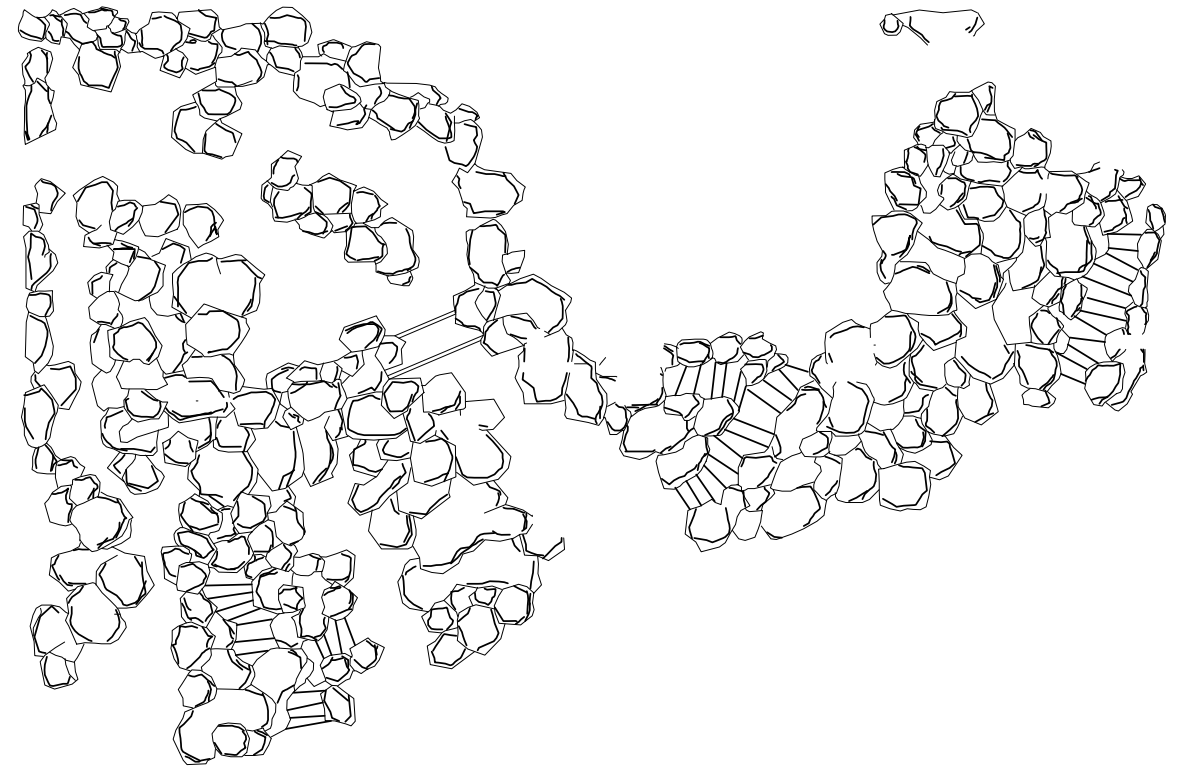
GENTLE-RIPPLE PAVILION  
PLAN



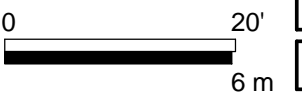
BREEZY-AND-MOONLIT  
HOUSE PLAN



CRANE PAVILION PLAN



TYPICAL ROCKERIES PLAN



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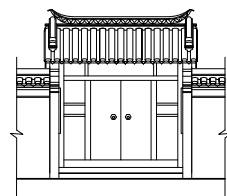
PLANS & ELEVATIONS OF BUILDINGS / STRUCTURES

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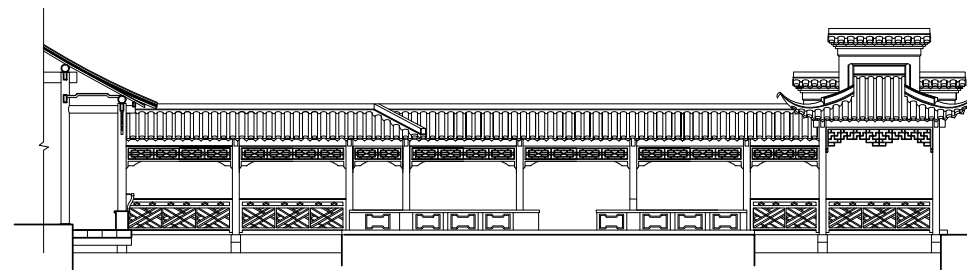
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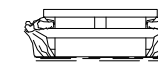




MOUNTAIN HOUSE GATE  
ELEVATION



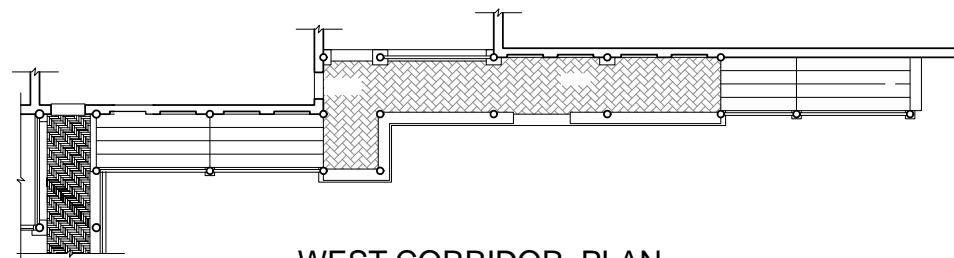
WEST CORRIDOR ELEVATION



FLAT BRIDGE SECTION



MOUNTAIN HOUSE GATE PLAN



WEST CORRIDOR PLAN



FLAT BRIDGE PLAN



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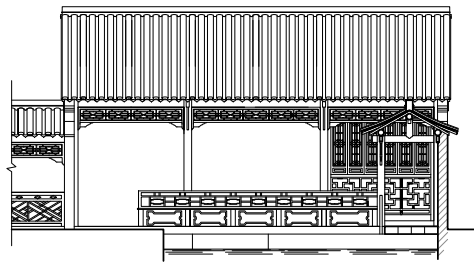
PLANS & ELEVATIONS OF BUILDINGS / STRUCTURES

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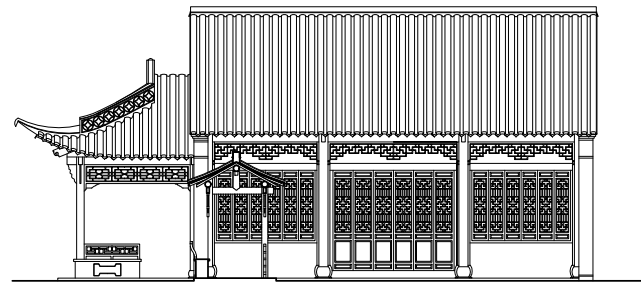
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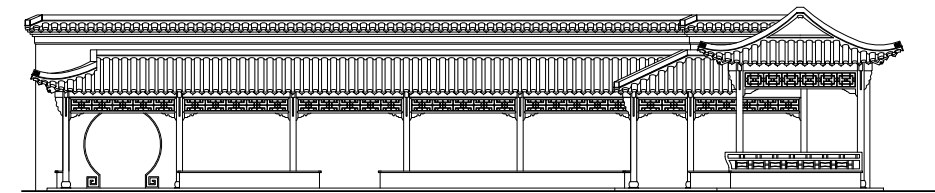




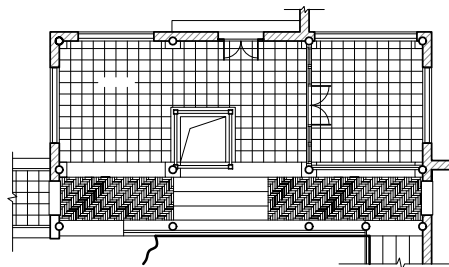
REFLECTION ROOM ELEVATION



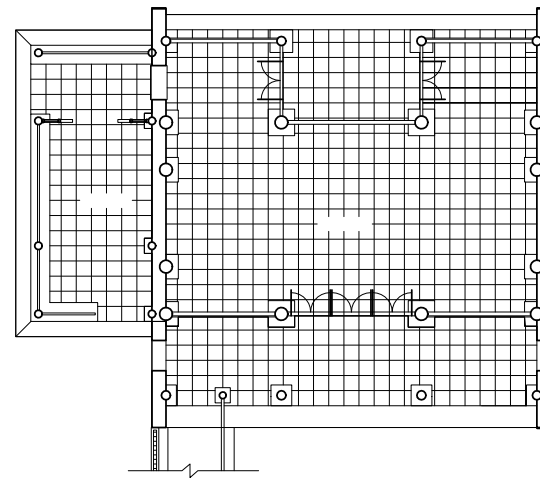
NANMU HALL ELEVATION



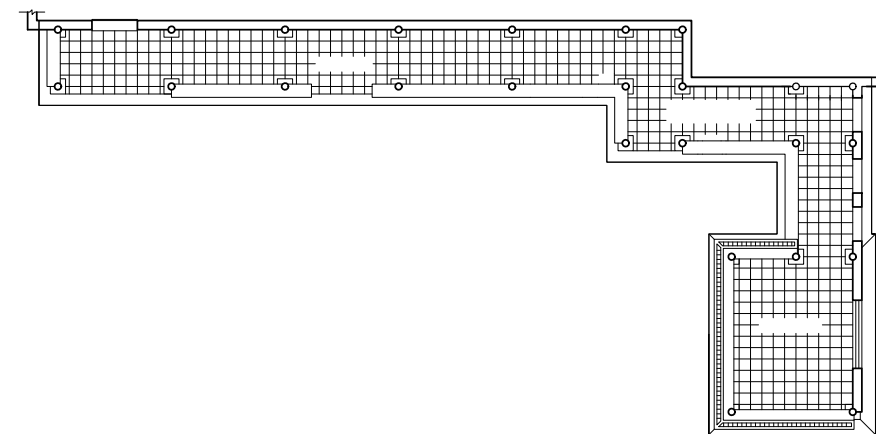
OUTER-EAST CORRIDOR ELEVATION



REFLECTION ROOM PLAN



NANMU HALL PLAN



OUTER-EAST CORRIDOR PLAN



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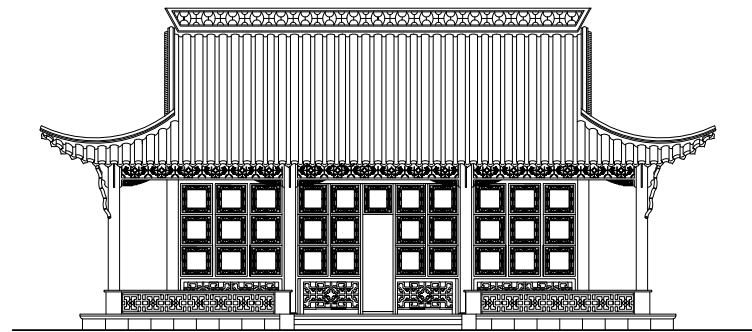
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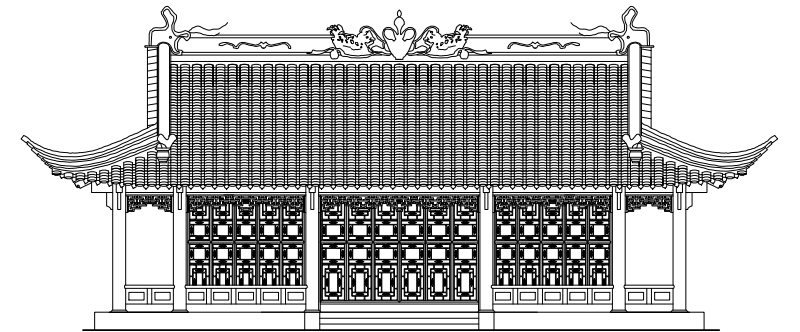




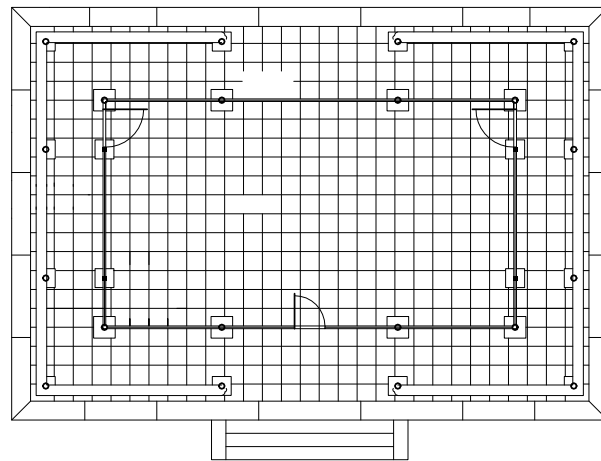
BOAT HALL ELEVATION



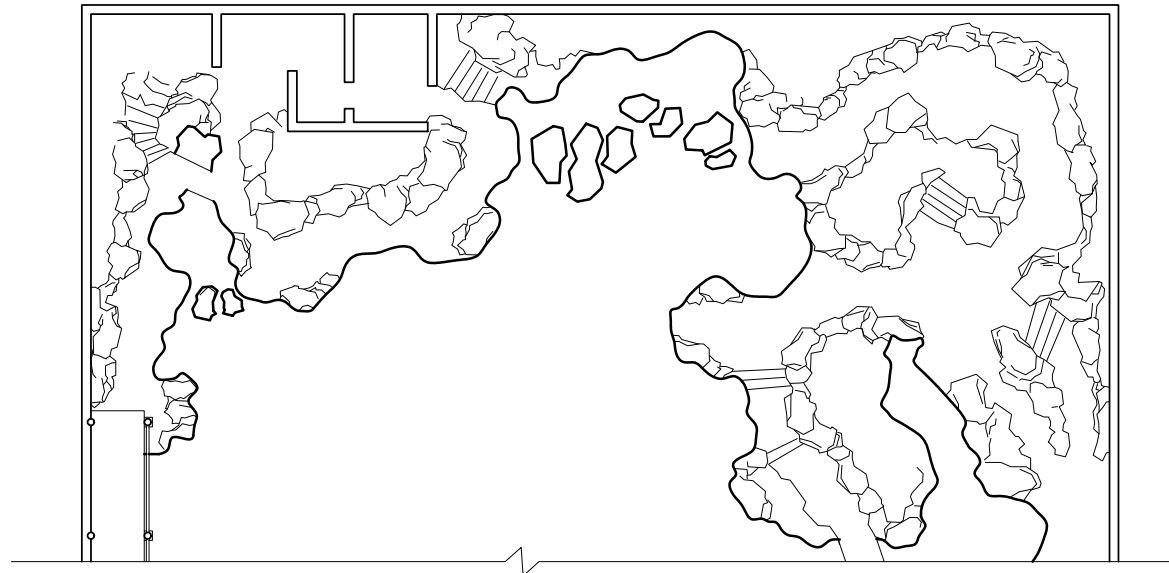
ROCKERIES ELEVATION



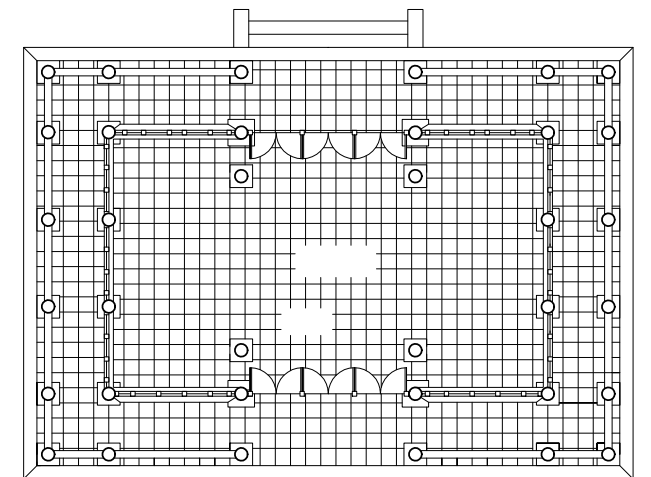
FLOATING-FRAGRANCE HALL ELEVATION



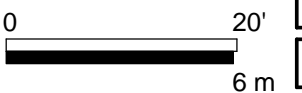
BOAT HALL PLAN



ROCKERIES PLAN



FLOATING-FRAGRANCE HALL PLAN



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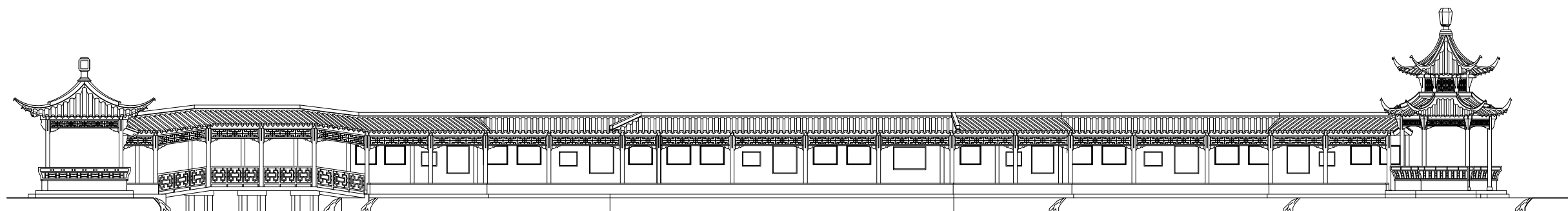
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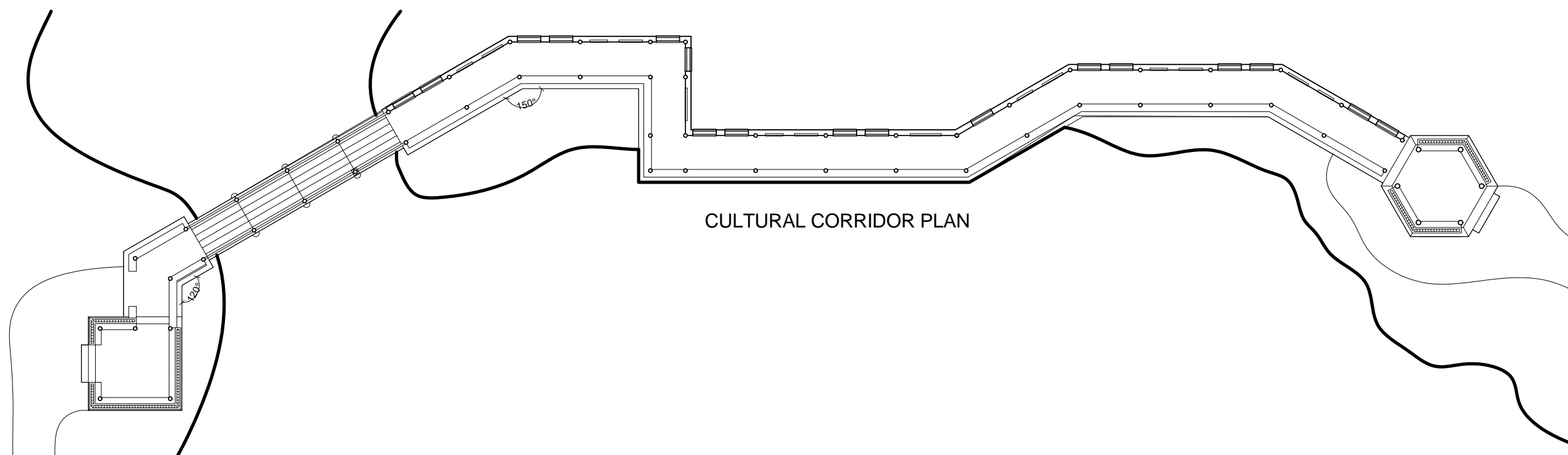
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CULTURAL CORRIDOR ELEVATION



CULTURAL CORRIDOR PLAN



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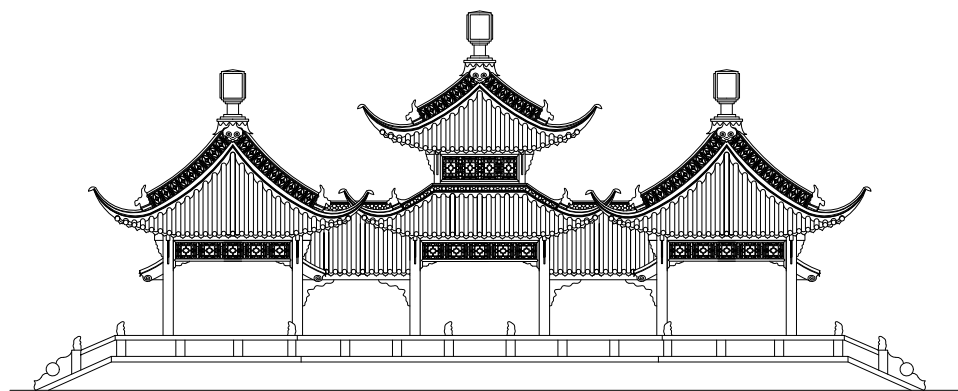


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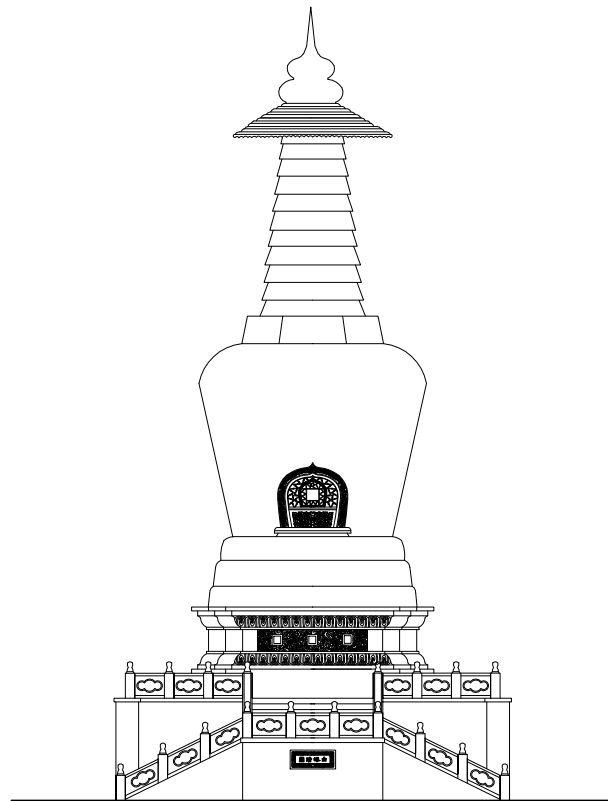
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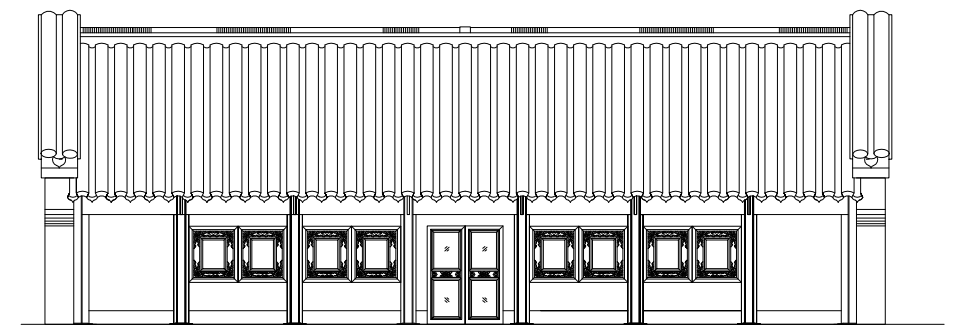




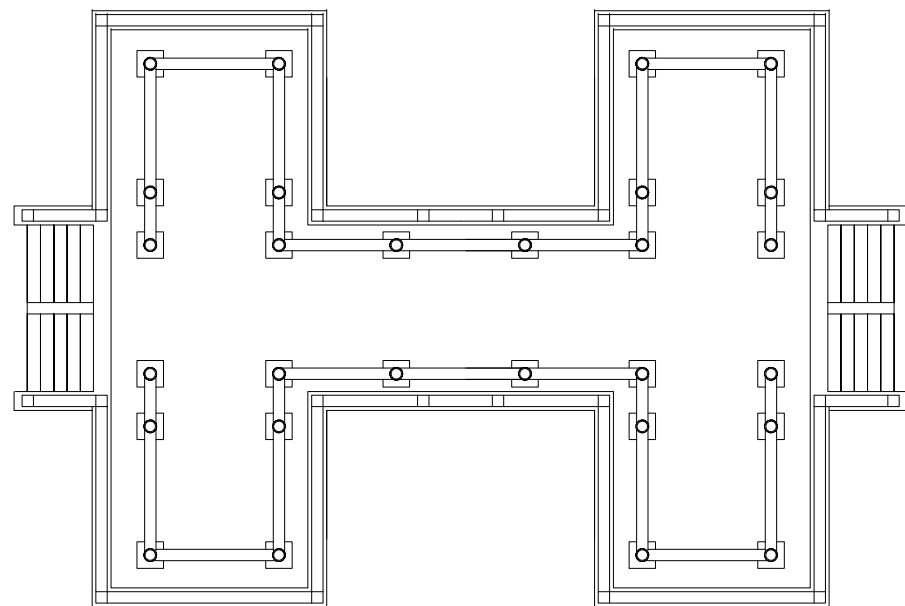
FIVE-PAVILION TERRACE ELEVATION



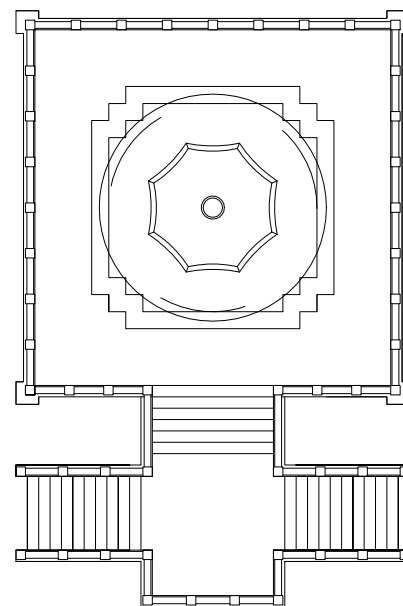
WHITE PAGODA ELEVATION



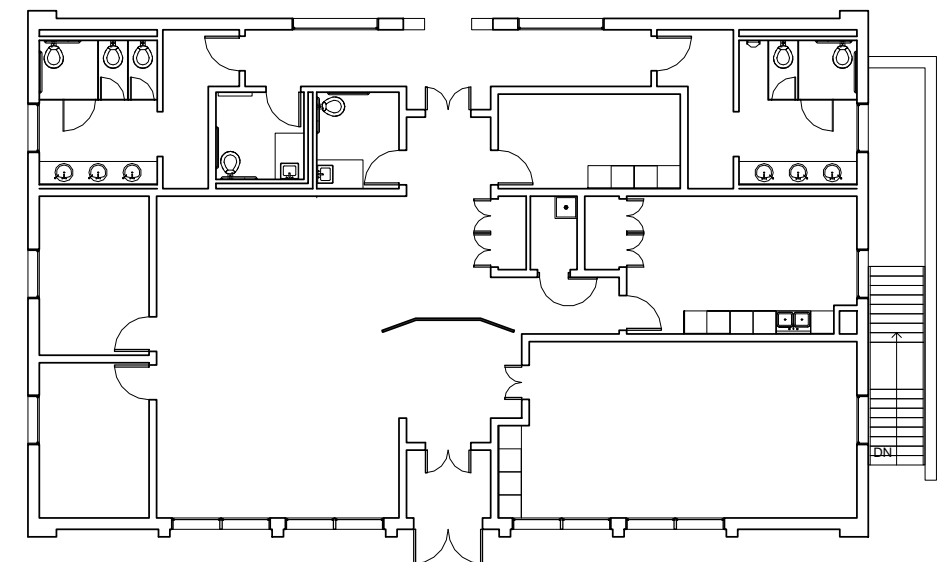
SUPPORT SERVICE BUILDING ELEVATION



FIVE-PAVILION TERRACE PLAN



WHITE PAGODA PLAN



SUPPORT SERVICE BUILDING PLAN



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